

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An information reproducing apparatus for reproducing recording information, which is encrypted and recorded with ~~an~~ first reproducing limit information for controlling the number of reproduction times or a reproduction period of the recording information reproducing manner of the recording information in a recording medium, the first reproducing limit information being recorded separately from the recording information and being embedded on the recording information as second reproducing limit information ~~based on the reproducing limit information, said reproducing limit information which is added to the recording information and also embedded on the recording information in a way of preventing from illegal detection~~, said information reproducing apparatus comprising:

a reproducing limit information detecting device for detecting the first ~~added~~ reproducing limit information;

a reproducing limit information extracting device for extracting the ~~embedded~~ second reproducing limit information from the recording information;

a confirming device for confirming whether the first reproducing limit information matches the second reproducing limit information or not; and

~~a recording information extracting device for extracting original recording information from the recording information on which the reproducing limit information is embedded; and~~

an output control device for, ~~only when the detected reproducing limit information matches the extracted reproducing limit information,~~ supplying the ~~extracted original recording information based on the~~ first reproducing limit information only when the confirming device confirms that the first reproducing limit information matches the second reproducing limit information.

9. (Currently Amended) The information reproducing apparatus, according to Claim 8, wherein

said recording medium having a start information recording area, said start information recording area in which start information detected at starting the reproducing of the recording information is recorded, said start information on which key information for encrypting cryptographic information used for encrypting the recording information is embedded, said key information which is generated by using identification information, said identification information particular to each recording medium and recorded in the recording medium, said cryptographic information which is encrypted by using the key information and added to the recording information ~~to~~ with which the first reproducing limit information is added recorded,

wherein said information reproducing apparatus further comprises:

a key information detecting device for detecting the key information from the start information recording area;

an encrypted cryptographic information detecting device for detecting the encrypted cryptographic information from the recording medium;

an obtaining device for decoding the detected encrypted cryptographic information by using the detected key information and obtaining original cryptographic information; and

a decoding device for decoding the extracted original recording information by using the obtained original cryptographic information and supplying the decoded recording information to the output control device.

10. (Currently Amended) The information reproducing apparatus, according to Claim 8, wherein

said recording medium in which content information indicating the content of the recording information is recorded, said content information on which key information for encrypting cryptographic information used for encrypting the recording information is embedded, said key information which is generated by using identification information, said identification information particular to each recording medium and recorded in the recording medium, said cryptographic information which is encrypted by using the key information and added to the recording information ~~to~~with which the first reproducing limit information is ~~added~~recorded,

wherein said information reproducing apparatus further comprises:

a key information detecting device for detecting the key information from the recording medium;

an encrypted cryptographic information detecting device for detecting the encrypted cryptographic information from the recording medium;

an obtaining device for decoding the detected encrypted cryptographic information by using the detected key information and obtaining original cryptographic information; and

a decoding device for decoding the extracted original recording information by using the obtained original cryptographic information and supplying the decoded recording information to the output control device.

11. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) An information reproducing method for reproducing recording information, which is encrypted and recorded with ~~an~~first reproducing limit information for controlling ~~reproducing manner of the recording information~~the number of reproduction times or a reproduction period of the recording information in a recording medium, ~~based on the reproducing limit information, said reproducing limit information which is added to the recording information and also embedded on the recording information in a way of preventing from illegal detection~~the first reproducing limit information being recorded separately from the recording information and being embedded on the recording information as second reproducing limit information, said method comprising:

a reproducing limit information detecting process for detecting the ~~added~~first reproducing limit information;

a reproducing limit information extracting process for extracting the ~~embedded~~ second reproducing limit information from the recording information;

a confirming process for confirming whether the first reproducing limit information matches the second reproducing limit information; and

~~a recording information extracting process for extracting original recording information from the recording information on which the reproducing limit information is embedded; and~~

an output control process for, ~~only when the detected reproducing limit information matches the extracted reproducing limit information~~, supplying the ~~extracted original recording information~~ based on the first reproducing limit information only when confirming process confirms that the first reproducing limit information matches the second reproducing limit information.

19. (Currently Amended) The information reproducing method, according to Claim 18, wherein

said recording medium having a start information recording area, said start information recording area in which start information detected at starting the reproducing of the recording information is recorded, said start information on which key information for encrypting cryptographic information used for encrypting the recording information is embedded, said key information which is generated by using identification information, said identification information particular to each recording medium and recorded in the recording medium, said

cryptographic information which is encrypted by using the key information and added to the recording information ~~to~~ with which the first reproducing limit information is ~~added~~ recorded,

wherein said information reproducing method further comprises:

a key information detecting process for detecting the key information from the start information recording area;

an encrypted cryptographic information detecting process for detecting the encrypted cryptographic information from the recording medium;

an obtaining process for decoding the detected encrypted cryptographic information by using the detected key information and obtaining original cryptographic information; and

a decoding process for decoding the extracted original recording information by using the obtained original cryptographic information and supplying the decoded recording information to the output control process.

20. (Currently Amended) The information reproducing method, according to Claim 18, wherein

said recording medium in which content information indicating the content of the recording information is recorded, said content information on which key information for encrypting cryptographic information used for encrypting the recording information is embedded, said key information which is generated by using identification information, said identification information particular to each recording medium and recorded in the recording medium, said cryptographic information which is encrypted by using the key information and

added to the recording information ~~to~~with which the first reproducing limit information is ~~added~~recorded,

wherein said information reproducing method further comprises:

a key information detecting process for detecting the key information from the recording medium;

an encrypted cryptographic information detecting process for detecting the encrypted cryptographic information from the recording medium;

an obtaining process for decoding the detected encrypted cryptographic information by using the detected key information and obtaining original cryptographic information; and

a decoding process for decoding the extracted original recording information by using the obtained original cryptographic information and supplying the decoded recording information to the output control process.

21. – 30. (Canceled)